

THE SHAKERITE

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SERVING HIS WAY TO STATES

SENIOR TENNIS CAPTAIN JEREMY POLSTER QUALIFIED FOR THE STATE TOURNAMENT FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR. HEAD TO RAIDER ZONE AND SEE WHY COACH AL SLAWSON CALLED POLSTER "ONE OF THE BEST MEN'S SINGLES PLAYERS EVER."

RAIDER ZONE, PAGE 12



CLEANING UP CONDOMS

WHILE OFTEN WELL-INTENDED, SENIOR PRANKS ARE A HASSLE FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL'S SECURITY AND CUSTODIAL STAFF

PAGE 6



**A FINAL
GOODBYE
TO 007**

FLIP TO THE SENIORITE TO SEE THE ANNUAL COLLEGE LIST AS WELL AS TO READ THE SENIOR EDITORS' FINAL WORDS

SEE INSERT



SUMMER VACATION MUST-HAVES

LIMELIGHT FILLS YOU IN ON ALL OF THE BEST BOOKS, MUSIC, MOVIES AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE UPCOMING MONTHS

PAGE 10



COVER SHOT

Senior tennis player Jeremy Polster prepares to backhand the ball during a match at the Lake Erie League Championship Tournament. He won the singles title without losing a single game. Photo by Mike Young.



What's Inside

06.04.07

EDITORS' NOTE

Exploring summer opportunities

It's the time of the year we've all been waiting for. As summer vacation quickly approaches, it is easy to see why students covet these 10 school-free weeks. No waking up early to get a decent parking spot, no more changing into dirty gym clothes, no more tests and pop quizzes and, for the first time in eight months, you can walk both up AND down the staircases.

And with these newfound freedoms, it seems far too easy to spend all 74 days of freedom chilling on the couch. But while daytime soap operas and afternoons at the pool may be temporarily satisfying, eventually this sense of liberation evolves into a sense of boredom.

When it is finally time to find more enjoyable ways to pass the time, it's often difficult to locate that perfect summer diversion. But summer can be the perfect opportunity to explore unique opportunities that, though not necessarily academic in nature, are vital for personal development.

One of the most common ways for students to stay active during their time away from school is by obtaining a summer job. Whether you're mowing lawns or scooping ice cream, entry-level jobs provide not only valuable work experience, but also help put a little money in the bank. Even if you don't consider yourself the working type, you'll probably dread your decision to stay unemployed midway through the summer, when your friends are all working and your parents are tired of having to fund all of your late-night excursions.

A summer job also provides the valuable experience of learning to co-exist with a variety of co-workers. And while that strange middle-aged man with whom you share a shift may not be your first choice of a bonding-buddy, at least you can call it a valuable life experience.

Another similar summer option is an internship. For those of who don't mind an academic summer option, an internship provides a chance to apply school-year knowledge in a real-world atmosphere. Researching with an established doctor or shadowing an advertiser at a major firm are fun ways to actually utilize the seemingly useless information thrown at students during the school year.

A third option is being a counselor at a summer camp. This job is a unique combination of childhood fun, responsibility and (most often) free food. Working with kids can be tiring but bonding with other counselors is a good opportunity to expand one's friend base.

Summer is a time to relax and get away from the stress and anxiety of the school year. While those lazy summer days in front of the TV or at the pool are summer essentials, a job or internship can help break up summertime monotony. In addition, having some responsibility over the summer will make transitioning back to school just a little bit easier.



WESLEY LOWERY



ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN



Summer Plans?


WHILE STUDENTS HEAD TO THE POOL, TEACHER BUSY THEMSELVES WITH OTHER PURSUITS.

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ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

SHAKER SPEAKS HEARS FROM STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE BIKE RIDING AND BUS HOPPING OVER CAR DRIVING.

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SUMMER READING

WHEN IT COMES TO SUMMER ACTIVITIES, READING IS OFTEN LEFT OFF THE LIST. LIMELIGHT EXPLORES SHAKER'S READING OPPORTUNITIES WHILE THE EDITORIAL BOARD MAKES ITS OWN SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

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SHAKERITE

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CAMP WISE

Tiyul

**JEWISH OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE PROGRAM**

JULY 17-AUG 6

Tiyul (trip), a new 3-week outdoor adventure travel program for entering 10th graders! Tiyul offers a chance to be splashed by Niagara Falls, climb 70 feet above the forest for a canopy tour, explore a mile of underground caves, go cliff-jumping, and so much more! Culminating in a 5-day professionally-guided canoe trip through Algonquin Park, and then returning to camp for a final Shabbat, Tiyul promises to be the experience of a lifetime!

(No previous adventure experience required.)

camp wise
est. 1987

This Month

06.04.07

ONLY A WEEK TO GO!

The end is finally here! Well...almost here. Spring finals consistently seem to be overlooked by Shaker students. So even though summer is just around the corner, don't forget to study for exams. Some important reminders: get plenty of sleep in the days leading up to exams, eat breakfast (it's actually important), study hard, avoid late night cram sessions and make sure to know what rooms your finals are in before they start. So fly through the finals and enjoy summer Shaker!



IN A SHAKER MINUTE...

CELEBRATING THE DONALD

Donald Duck Day is in honor of Donald's first appearance in "The Wise Hen" June 9, 1934. Take today to relax and watch some cartoons featuring the Donald himself, one of Disney's most popular cartoon characters. Happy 73rd Birthday Donald!

EAT YOUR VEGGIES

June is National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month and June 17 is Eat Your Vegetables Day. The holiday was originally created to promote a healthy diet full of fresh veggies. So take today to eat vegetables at every meal, and for an afternoon snack, ditch the potato chips and eat some carrots with ranch dressing. Even better, test out vegetarianism for this day: you might find you like it! Wendy's run! Order a salad or, if you must get a burger, forget about the fries in favor of a side salad. If you can't find any vegetables that suit your palate, make sure that you eat plenty of fruits instead. If you eat at least three veggies per day, you'll feel healthier in no time. Happy Eat Your Vegetables Day!

TAKE A PICTURE

June 29 is dedicated to cameras because they allow people to take photos and keep their visual memories. Polaroid photography was first invented by Edwin Herbert Land. Land was an American inventor and physicist and his one-step process for capturing and developing photos created simple and efficient photography using a camera. In 1986, Fuji came out with the first disposable camera. Although people use the terms "disposable" to describe these devices, they often contain recycled parts. So whether it be a digital camera, a "throw-away" or even just the tiny lens on a cell phone, be sure to celebrate camera day by taking a few pictures.

Compiled from
holidayinsights.com
Compiled by Abby Schiller

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 National Yo-Yo Day	7 FINAL EXAMS 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Science 1 - 4 p.m. English	8 FINAL EXAMS 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Foreign Language 1:00 - 4:00 PM Social Studies	9 Donald Duck Day Nelly Furtado at The Tower City Amphitheater 8 p.m.
10	11 FINAL EXAMS 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Math Conflicts & Make-ups 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	12 Ben Harper at HOB @ 7 p.m. FINAL EXAMS Conflicts & Make-ups 8:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.	13	14 07 Graduation @ 6 p.m.	15 END OF SECOND SEMESTER!	16
17 Eat Your Vegetables Day	18 The Fray at The Tower City Amphitheater @ 7 p.m.	19	20 Ice Cream Soda Day	21	22	23
24 Battle of the Bands at Peabody's Downunder @ 1 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29 Camera Day	30

Infographic by Abby Schiller

Things to do in July:

- July 1- John Mayer Concert at Blossom @ 7 p.m.
- July 4 - Independence Day! Nothing to do? Head to the Middle School with some friends to watch the fireworks!
- July 5- Oliver at Cain Park @ 8 p.m.
- July 6- Weird Al Yankovic at The Plain Dealer Pavilion @ 7:30 p.m.
- July 7- National Strawberry Sundae Day-ENJOY!
- July 13- Def Leppard Concert at Blossom @ 7:30 p.m.
- July 14-Bob Dylan Concert at The Plain Dealer Pavilion @ 7:30 p.m.

Things to do in August:

- August 3- National Watermelon Day—Enjoy nature's sweet treat!
- August 5- O.A.R. Concert at Tower City Amphitheater @ 7:30 p.m.
- August 10- Tremont Art Walk, Little Italy from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- August 12- Kelly Clarkson Concert at the Quicken Loans Arena @ 7:30 p.m.
- August 13- American Idols Live at the Wolstein Center @ 7 p.m.
- August 20- Dave Matthews Band Concert at Blossom @ 7 p.m.
- August 26- Latino Heritage Festival, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum
- August 29- LAST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION! DO SOMETHING FUN!



ACQUITTED SHAKIRA JOHNSON SUSPECT ARRESTED AGAIN

Daniel Hines was arrested April 19 after allegedly raping a 14-year-old Cleveland girl. The arrest warrant states that Hines raped the girl in a house in Cleveland's Union-Miles neighborhood April 13. Hines was the only suspect in the 2003 kidnapping, rape, murder and dismemberment of Shakira Johnson, whose body was found a month after she disappeared in a field off East 71st Street. Hines was acquitted in December 2004 for her murder and kidnapping after accusing the police and former Mayor Jane Campbell of persecuting him.

Note Worthy

06.04.07

NEW LEADERSHIP PROVIDES FRESH IDEAS FOR SHAKER

BY ALEXA SYKES
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

"Vote for me," "I'm the best," and "I'll make sure everyone gets what they want," were all promises made to the student body May 15, as students missed a period of class to watch clips of candidates' speeches during the Student Council assembly.

Assistant Principal and Student Council Adviser Eric Hutchinson stressed the importance and impact of Student Council and encouraged every student to vote during their lunch period for the most qualified candidate, and not their best friend. "If you vote for your best friend and they don't keep their promises, I guarantee they won't be your best friend anymore," said Student Council President Katie Stamm.

While some candidates took the opportunity to make elaborate speeches, others simply said, "vote for me," and flashed a smile. Many students explained in detail their new ideas for Student Council such as movie nights, bake-a-thons and community service projects, while others assumed that their ideas were implied by their jovial attitude and thumbs up at the end of their clip.

In all three classes, only two males, Alex Tuma ('08) and Eric Bokar ('09) ran for offices. The class of 2009 had 13 students run for offices, the most of any class. Only 5 students of 2010 ran for office, Vice President Rachel Licina and Treasurer Mary Clair ran unopposed and were automatic winners.

CLASS OF 2008

PRESIDENT Kirsten Gassman

Gassman's goal is to come up with an affordable price for prom by means of a prom fashion show. At this event, anyone would be able to show off fashionable prom attire, which would raise money while being an entertaining social event. Having an enjoyable senior year and prom is her top priority and Gassman said her ideas will help make that possible.

VICE PRESIDENT Megan Qua

The upcoming school year will be Qua's fourth consecutive year as class vice president. Qua feels she has the experience needed for a successful senior year and wants to continue to support her class. She wants to come up with better school dance themes, class projects and senior class t-shirts.

SECRETARY Khadeja Sherill

Sherill believes that her high energy and blissful personality will both be positive aspects to Student Council in the upcoming school year. Sherill was an automatic winner because she ran unopposed.

TREASURER Chante Witlow

Witlow promised the class to listen to their ideas and to make sure everyone gets what they want. Witlow was another candidate that was an automatic winner because she ran unopposed.



Gassman

CLASS OF 2009

PRESIDENT Sophia Bellin-Warren

Bellin-Warren is a 2-year Secretary on Student Council, and wants to make sure everyone gets what they want. Her ideas include a back-to-school gathering at the beginning of the year, more community service, movie nights, bake sales and class t-shirts. "If we work together, we'll be a better class," she said.

VICE PRESIDENT Lauren Holloway

Holloway has a history of participating in Student Council, and held presidential positions at both the Middle School and Woodbury. She said she is open to new ideas, and thinks it is important that everyone has a goal to achieve. She wants to make her class economically stable, and make sure every student always knows what is going on in Student Council.

SECRETARY Asia Davis

Davis' main goal is to involve the entire class of 2009, and believes she can do so because of her strong communication skills and ability to work with others fairly. She aims to include everyone's ideas and to "stick to what she says she'll do."

TREASURER Simone Duval

This will be Duval's first year involved in Student Council. Her ideas include a raffle for an all-expense paid prom night and large contributions to community service. She also wants to bring back breakfast bagels from Panera in the mornings before school to raise money.



Bellin-Warren

CLASS OF 2010

PRESIDENT Katelyn Walker

Walker was president of Student Council her freshman year and "loves being president." She said she knows what student council is all about now, and is open to new suggestions. Her ideas are to design popular class t-shirts for sophomore year, and have more spirit days.

VICE PRESIDENT Rachel Licina

Licina ran unopposed for her position this year and was an automatic winner. She is committed to her ideas; her main goal is to do her best and have the best sophomore year possible. "I think my ideas will improve Student Council," said Licina.

SECRETARY Sarah Cook

Cook believes Shaker is a great school and aims to make it better. She promises to work hard and "always give 100 percent," and wants to "help improve our school."

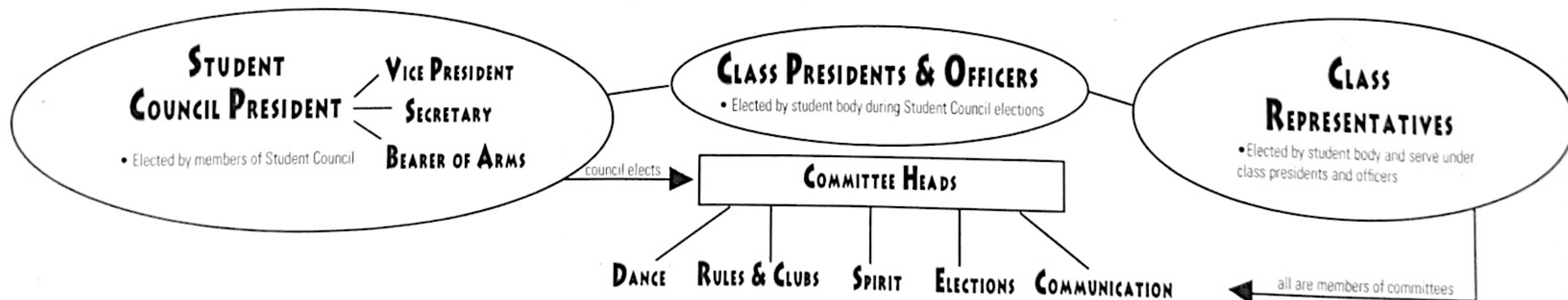
TREASURER Mary Clair

Clair ran unopposed in the election and was an automatic winner. She said is a good listener, which makes it easy for her classmates and fellow student council members to communicate their ideas to her. She wants to get her class involved in many community service projects.



Walker

Student government delegates' responsibilities



Ohio news



1. SHARONVILLE

May 11—Three people died when two planes collided near an airfield in suburban Cincinnati. Neils Harpsøe, who lived in West Chester, died aboard his Beechcraft Bonanza. Two other people died on the Cessna 172 that was also involved in the crash. The collision occurred several miles from Blue Ash airport, which has a runway often used by pilots of small planes. The Federal Aviation Administration does not know the intentions of the pilots who, under the agency's rules, were not required to file flight plans. No one on the ground was hurt, although there were reports of damage to one house and there was debris scattered for three miles.

2. OTTAWA

May 18—The mayor of a small village in northwest Ohio pleaded no contest to operating a vehicle while intoxicated and resisting arrest. Feb. 10, a state trooper found Michael Bogart, the mayor of Columbus Grove in Putnam County. The Ohio Highway Patrol report indicated that Bogart violently resisted arrest and that the arresting officer used a Taser and pepper spray to restrain him. Bogart was sentenced to one year of probation and counseling. County Court Judge Michael O' Malley suspended Bogart's jail sentence on the condition that he does not commit any related crime in the next two years. Bogart's license was suspended, but he will be permitted to drive if it relates to his job.

3. ELYRIA

May 12—A man who fell off a 50-foot cliff while using a shortcut in Elywood Park was forced to wait five hours for help to arrive. The man, Michael Beal, 20, from Elyria, sustained several fractured vertebrae and a broken leg in the incident, said Lt. Andy Eichenlaub, an Elyria police spokeswoman. Beal said that, after leaving a billiard club early on Saturday morning, he planned to go to a friend's house through a shortcut in the park. He became disoriented in the darkness, however, and fell off the cliff. Beal was taken to MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland.

4. SOLON

May 13—Firefighters and other rescue workers successfully to contain the spill of nearly 100,000 gallons of water laced with toxic oil in an industrial building on Sunday afternoon. Solon Fire Department Lt. Scott Stevener said that the initial fire was under control, but that the sprinkler systems in the Enrico building flooded tanks filled with extinguishing oil. No one was hurt and the building is not located near any residential areas. The cause of the fire that precipitated the flood is not yet known. The Environmental Protection Agency had been overseeing repair on the building.

5. LISBON

May 16—A man pleaded guilty to placing his girlfriend's two-year-old daughter in bath water that caused the child third-degree burns. Patrick Murphy, 24, will not be sentenced until the other charges pending against him are resolved. Murphy's girlfriend, 21-year-old Melinda Gregory, the mother of the burned child, was charged with making false statements to investigators in an attempt to cover up the crime. Tim McNicol, the county prosecutor handling the case, recommended a sentence of five years for Murphy and three years for Gregory. Both recommendations are less than the maximum possible.

Compiled from ohio.com, morningjournalnews.com and toledoblade.com

Infographic by Bobbi O'Connor
Compiled by Michael Cowett

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too expensive but I found
it easy!



African Student: "I know one of you kids has paper, this is America!"
5/11/07

"She is too pretty and too smart! God really needs to learn how to balance people out."
5/13

"Jeez, I was just trying to be racist."
5/23

"I don't want to look at porn; I just want to watch science videos!"
5/18



"Let's go! We have to get our education!"
5/8

Security Guard to Student: "That little hairy beast you like to call a beard, I'd like to hold you down and pluck it out with tweezers!"
5/15

"Wow, someone's pissing really loudly. That's awkward."
5/3

The Beat

06.04.07

SENIOR PRANKS NOT SO FUNNY



Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

SENIOR PRANK WEEK quickly turned into a headache for custodians who had to clean up the remains of numerous pranks. Custodian Joan Gayle sweeps up remains of unopened condoms strewn all over the choir room area stairs.

BY DIANA JACK
THE BEAT EDITOR

As much fun as it is to clean up condoms, custodians are upset about having to deal with senior prank week, and the administration isn't helping. From balloons to graffiti, forks, oil and tar, this year's senior pranks came with a series of inconvenient messes. For the fewer than ten high school security guards and custodians, this meant painfully long hours and constant surveillance of the hallways, grounds and classrooms. Security guard Mark Seymore said his duties almost double, as do his hours, when the graduating class gets riled up during senior prank week.

"I have 12 hour days: four in the morning to five or six at night," he said. "Also, my duties upgrade and several areas overlap."

Security guards spend senior prank week working longer hours to accommodate the increase in their workload, but the same is not true for custodians.

According to custodian Joan Gayle, custodians' hours do not change. Only their workloads do.

"My hours were the same, but I had to clean up the mess... in addition to my regular routine," Gayle said.

Seymore and Gayle agree that the worst pranks this year were the oil and tar on the floor and stairs, and the splattered eggs. Seymore mentioned someone falling and getting hurt on the oil and Gayle warned of eggs de-

stroying people's clothing and damaging cars.

Some of the perpetrators of the pranks had enough foresight to plan a clean-up procedure along with their prank. Senior Carrie Coverdale, who bubble-wrapped the third floor hallway, said she and Principal Griffith worked out the clean-up routine.

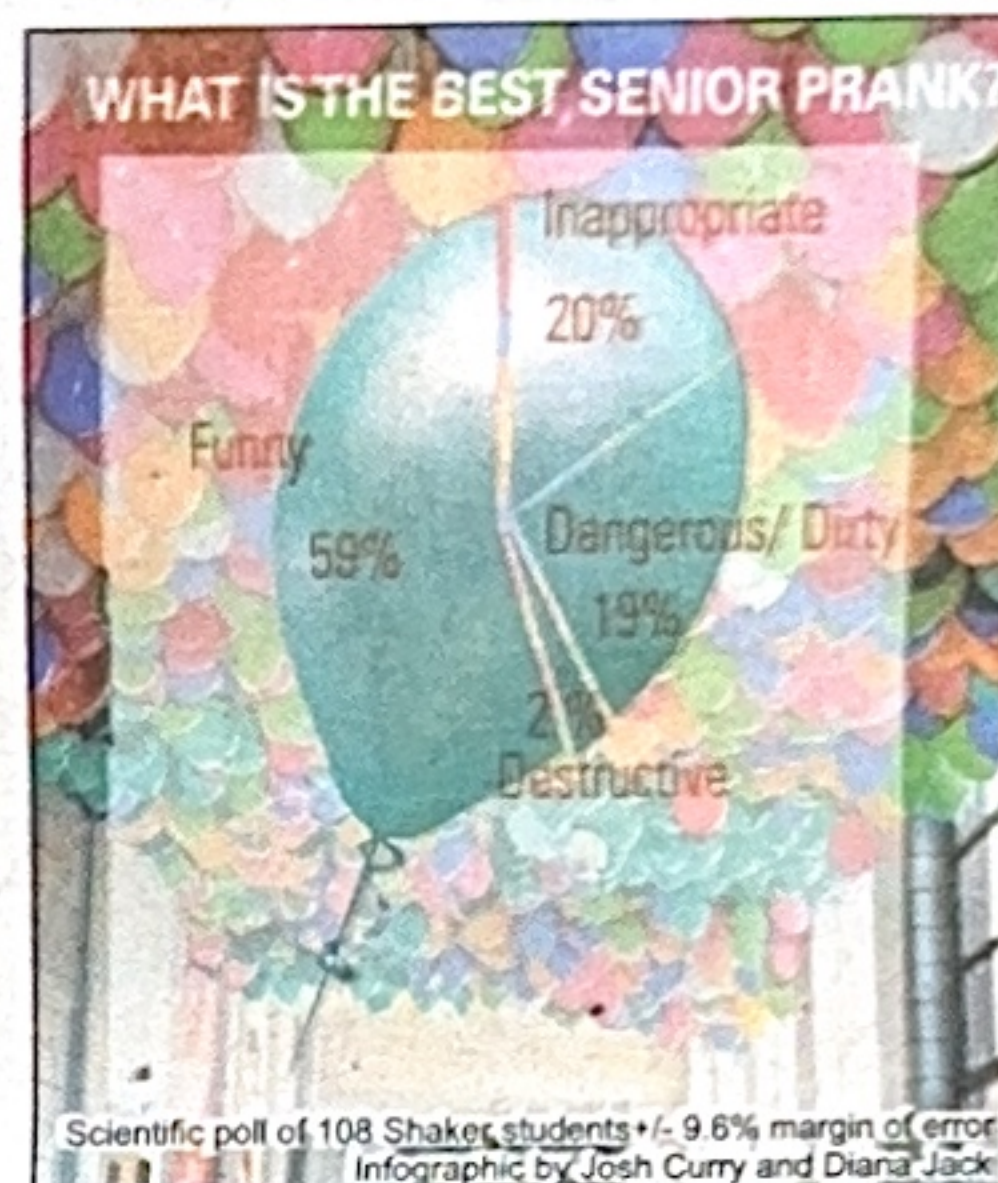
"I talked to Griffith, who OK'd the prank. Then he pulled [Tim] Bates into his office, who said it was funny and OK to do. I planned it so it wasn't a ton of clean-up," said Coverdale. "Instead of taping it every foot, I made it long strips, so it was easier to take up," she said. Still, the custodians cleaned up her bubble wrap - twice.

Though Griffith approved of the prank, he said that since the bubble-wrap was a safety hazard, it had to be taken down. "We can't allow a safety violation. But it was very time consuming and it could have stayed longer," said Griffith. He feels it is necessary to communicate to promote safe and appropriate pranks.

Head night custodian Carlos Sanchez said that lawn day and the eggs caused a headache but that overall, the administration did an adequate job keeping order and seniors did a sufficient job cleaning up.

Nonetheless, custodians are unhappy with senior prank week every year.

"As soon as you leave [your position] a prank will happen. Anything is possible at Shaker," said Seymore.



Teachers' summer plans surprise students

BY ADRIA KINNEY
THE BEAT EDITOR

Thornton Park, Ben and Jerry's and the mall are popular summer hangouts for Shaker students, but teachers' summer plans are largely unknown.

Sixty five percent of Shaker teachers spend their summers being students (straw poll of Shaker teachers with 40 respondents.) Ensemble teacher Erik Johnson takes classes to work towards earning his Master's degree in education, and attends dance classes and theatre workshops around town. "It is sometimes strange to be a student," Johnson said. "Teachers can be terrible students... when you have a classroom full of teachers they are often so unfocused."

Twenty-four percent of Shaker students think that teachers get other jobs over the summer (scientific poll of 108 students with a margin of error +/- 9.6%), and about 25 percent of teachers do. Librarian Dawn Sullivan works as a substitute librarian in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public library system. "I enjoy doing this because it keeps my reference skills sharp," Sullivan said.

Whereas Sullivan's summer job is nearly identical to her school year occupation, science teacher Amanda Rabatin does something vastly different. "I am a fitness instructor at a gym," Rabatin said. "It is very similar to teaching in a school... the participants come to have fun and to learn."

Teachers also named working in the yard as another popular summer pastime. Some find more unconventional ways to relax. Science teacher William Scanlon plays Ultimate Frisbee, art teacher Dan Whitely does studio artwork and school nurse Paula



Dworkin does crossword puzzles at Starbucks. "Students are usually surprised since they are often at Coventry where I spend time," Dworkin said.

Teachers anticipate that students have misconceptions about what teachers do over the summer. Fourteen percent of students said that they think teachers do "nothing," and 19 percent "have no idea." English teacher David Schiopota said that his students think he "lays on the beach." Band director Adrian Pocaro tells his students that he's going to golf a lot and sleep in. "I'm pretty sure they believe me," Pocaro said.

Students and teachers both agree that seeing each other over the summer is a fairly common and yet strange experience. "Once, I saw Mrs. Hise (Shaker orchestra teacher) at the pool over the summer in a bikini," freshman Katie Rownd said. "It was really scary." Scanlon, who lives in Shaker and has three small children, also said that he frequents the community pool, Thornton Park.

"They get used to seeing me there," Scanlon said about his students.

Teachers also remember what it was like to see their own former teachers outside of school. Jasmine Clark, assistant principal, once saw her former band director at a store buying a large amount of beer. "I was in shock," Clark said. "It shattered the image I had of him. I didn't say anything at the time, just hello... I was sort of embarrassed as well."

Clark is not the only teacher who has had strange encounters over the summer. Social Studies teacher Andrew Glasier once saw a student of his in a parenting class. "She felt very, very awkward, as did I," Glasier said. "It was odd."

WHAT DO YOU
THINK TEACHERS DO
OVER THE SUMMER?



Think of ways to torture their students for next year.

Katie Rownd • freshman



Go barhopping, go to parties...try out psychoactive drugs.

Jacob Schwartz • sophomore

SAVING SUMMER

More schools across the country are doing away with summer vacation, a detrimental trend for students. Outside of the need for some time to relax and get away from textbooks, summer vacation provides teenagers with a large block of time to get real world experience. Without summer break, the valuable experiences of jobs, internships and volunteer work would be much harder to achieve. Students should have the ability to grow outside of high school and summer vacation provides the perfect opportunity.



READING FOR FUN LOSES ITS LURE

• School should stimulate, not stifle, love of books

After spending the school year slogging through Shakespeare and overanalyzing Dickens, summer reading can seem like an unfair burden.

Students have worked hard all year and, though minimal, the summer reading assignment often feels like a huge intrusion on free time. And with the added encouragement from teachers and librarians to read for pleasure, especially during the summer, it's easy to be turned off by reading altogether.

Remember in elementary school, when reading was fun? Reading used to be about enjoyment, but in high school books can lose their appeal.

In English class, the pace of reading can be relentless. AP students read up to fifty pages a night, making it difficult to slow down and enjoy what's being read. In addition, students are preoccupied with looking for symbolism and themes and in the process miss the story.

It can also be difficult to get through assigned reading when it doesn't interest you. English teachers are required to teach certain books as part of the curriculum, regardless of whether or not they think students will enjoy them. Sometimes even teachers aren't engaged by the books they're required to teach.

While analyzing the classics is part of English class, tearing apart every paragraph is overkill. Instead of fostering a greater appreciation for literature in students, overanalyzing turns students off to reading completely. By failing to learn to appreciate reading in school, students are less likely to read on their own.

Reading on your own provides a freedom that makes the experience more enjoyable than reading for school. Besides the

obvious freedom to choose the book you want to read, you can read at your own pace without worrying about skimming over any boring parts or accidentally skipping a paragraph.

Your book should be a pleasure to get through, not a chore to finish. The pages will fly by because you'll be engaged in reading about a topic of your own choosing.

When you're done with the book, you don't have to write an essay examining the growth of the novel's protagonist or

explicating an important quotation. Reading for English class is a completely different experience than reading for your own enjoyment and students shouldn't let a bad experience with one ruin the other.

Summer vacation provides the perfect opportunity to rekindle your love of reading. In addition to taking time to enjoy the assigned summer reading, students can take advantage of the suggested reading list provided at the end of every year by the librarians. Friends and parents can also provide good suggestions for what

to read.

If you're looking for a place to start, the Editorial Board has compiled a list of ten books that would make great summer reads. The list comprises some of the Editorial Board's favorite books that merit being read at some point by everyone. And don't forget that non-fiction, romance novels and magazines count as reading too. By fostering your reading over the summer, you may find reading for English class a little more enjoyable next year.

top 10

TOP TEN BOOKS YOU SHOULD BE READING

1. A FAREWELL TO ARMS
BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

2. SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE
BY KURT VONNEGUT

3. THE CATCHER IN THE RYE
J.D. SALINGER

4. ZEN AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE
BY ROBERT PIRSIG

5. A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN
BY VIRGINIA WOOLF

6. NATIVE SON
BY RICHARD WRIGHT

7. A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN
BY BETTY SMITH

8. A CLOCKWORK ORANGE
BY ANTHONY BURGESS

9. METALK PRETTY ONE DAY
BY DAVID SEDARIS

10. ON THE ROAD
BY JACK KEROUAC

Sex and the suburbs

I want to be Carrie Bradshaw.

From the first episode of Sex and the City I ever saw, I just knew that she was who I wanted to be.

I started watching the show as a re-run on TBS. Every Tuesday night I would put off my homework and put on the television to tune in for an hour of what I hoped was a glimpse into my future.

I wanted nothing more than to live in a rent-controlled apartment on Manhattan's Upper West Side and write columns while looking out my window.

I couldn't wait to have a gay best friend who would read Vogue with me and tell me all about his juicy love life over drinks.

Most of all, I couldn't wait to be the one thing Carrie Bradshaw always is: fabulous.

Over the course of six seasons, I followed Carrie everywhere. We shopped at Dolce & Gabbana for shoes and Tasti-Delight for ice cream. We gambled in Atlantic City and danced in Soho. We shared secrets. We drank cosmos. And throughout the show, Carrie and her friends helped me realize just what it was that made them so great.

The women of Sex and the City are indeed, as Samantha would say, fabulous.

Living in the age of post-feminism, they find it completely possible to balance high-power careers with men and relationships.

Carrie is a successful columnist.

Samantha runs one of the city's top public relations firms.

Charlotte is a docent at an art gallery.

Miranda is a partner at a law firm.

Carrie and her friends aren't afraid to enjoy being courted, yet at the same time they would never let a man define who they are. Carrie, in particular, refuses to change herself or her relationship standards in her quest for the perfect man.

Charlotte, Samantha, Miranda and Carrie are looking for love on their own terms. They're feminists who aren't afraid to wear Fendi. They have redefined sexy and revised what it means to be female.

Their complete confidence is what drew me to them and their willingness to make mistakes is what kept me watching. Above all, they are always true to themselves.

By realizing what I admired in Carrie and her friends, I figured out that I don't have to wait to be a thirty-something New Yorker to be like them. Independence can be achieved at any age. Being an assertive, motivated and self-aware woman isn't reserved for the trendy, urban set.

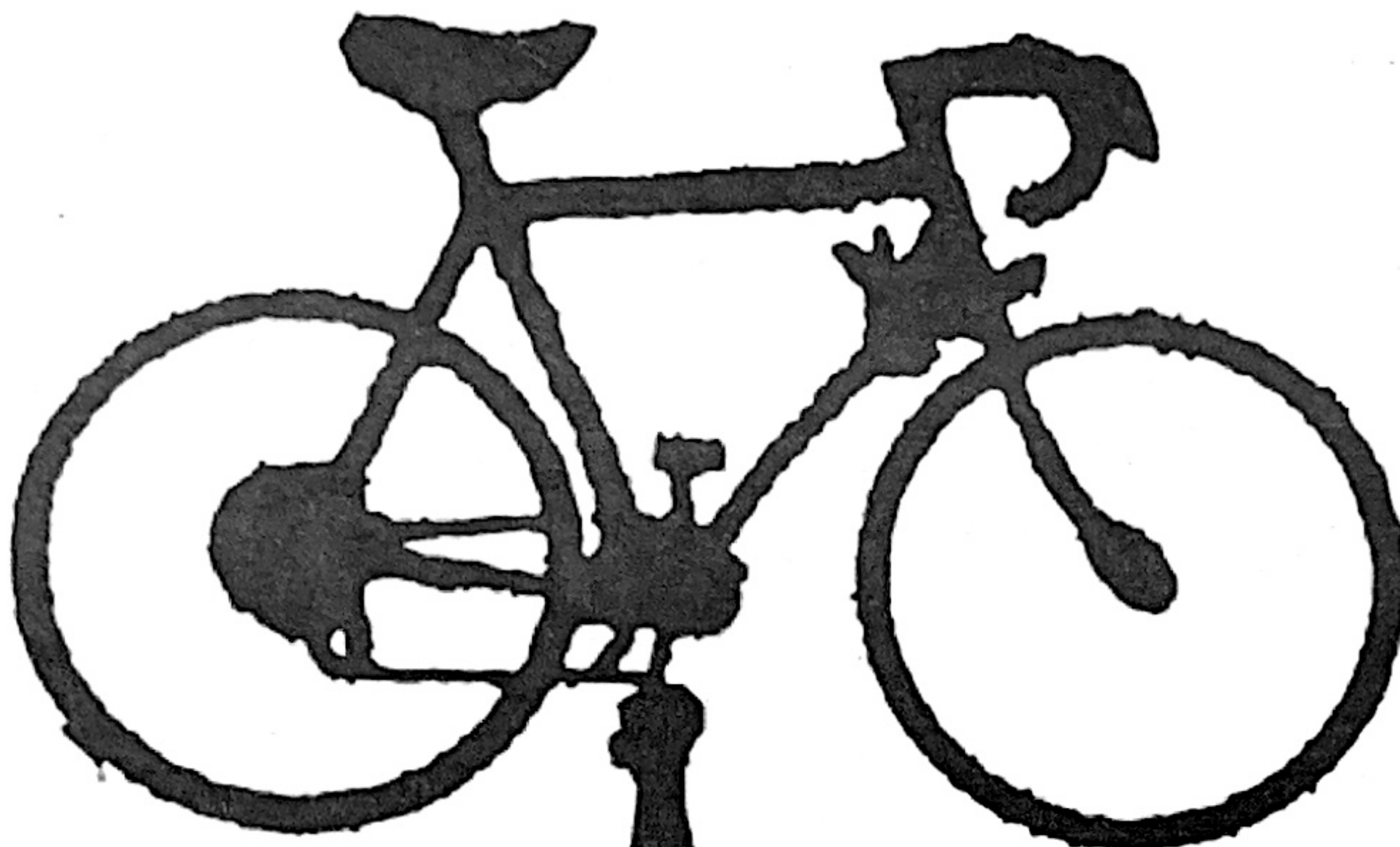
And while I still can't wait to wear couture and chat with my best friends over coffee on a New York corner, I know I don't need the trimmings of the show to be Carrie Bradshaw. By embodying the characteristics she embraces, I can be fabulous now.



LENA NEWMAN

AUTOMOBILE ISSUES REQUIRE TRANSPORT CHANGE

• Students differ from greater population by avoiding car use



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES NEEDED

With gas prices approaching four dollars, the ozone slowly disintegrating and global warming becoming and increasingly obvious reality, the need for alternative sources of transportation is now more serious than ever.

Though modern American society is centered on automotive transportation, the time has come for the nation to follow Europe's lead in public transit and bicycle use.

Considering that Shaker Heights is a concentrated community with accessible public transportation, making this transition would be rather painless here.

Here are two examples of Shaker students who go about their daily lives with the car left in the garage.

BICYCLE: TRANSPORT FOR HEALTH

Why do I choose to ride a bike?
Take a look at gas prices.
That's not the only reason.
By choosing to ride a bike, I benefit both the environment and my health.



ANDREW HUNT

Riding a bike does not release fuel emissions, which are harmful to the atmosphere, or increase the growing problem of global warming.

Secondly, I like biking because I don't have a vehicle around me and I'm outside enjoying the weather. In a car you are stuck inside an air-conditioned space with wheels that totally remove you from the outside world. Bikes provide you with the ability to experience the scenery around you.

Finally, biking increases my ability to think on my feet. I weave through traffic as fast as the cars, narrowly avoiding accidents almost every ride. It's way more fun to be outside a vehicle moving around them.

There is a common misconception that biking is slower than driving but in my experience, this is not true. When biking to work on Coventry, I get there faster than driving because I don't have to stop at red lights and I can bike almost as fast as the cars can drive.

To put it simply, bikes provide an environmentally conscious, healthier and all-around more fun mode of transportation.

PUBLIC TRANSIT MAKES TEEN INDEPENDENT

I still don't have my license. I'll be 18 years old in September and live in suburban Cleveland. Shockingly, I feel no need to drive and am able to travel efficiently without a car.

My auto-less mobility is made possible by the transportation resources in Shaker.



JOSH DAVIDSON

When Cleveland started building the train system (commonly called the "rapid"), it was centered in Shaker so that the businessmen who lived in this early suburb could get to their downtown offices for the workday.

Today the rapid still runs its course through the suburb. This was my first resource for getting around the city without a car.

Since my parents were always at work and I was sick of sitting around my house during the summer, I ventured into the world of public transit in search of fun. I hopped the rapid to Shaker Square and focused on getting to Coventry.

At this point the fabulous world of the bus entered my life. With the help of the community circulator I was able to make it from my house to Cleveland, independently and without a car.

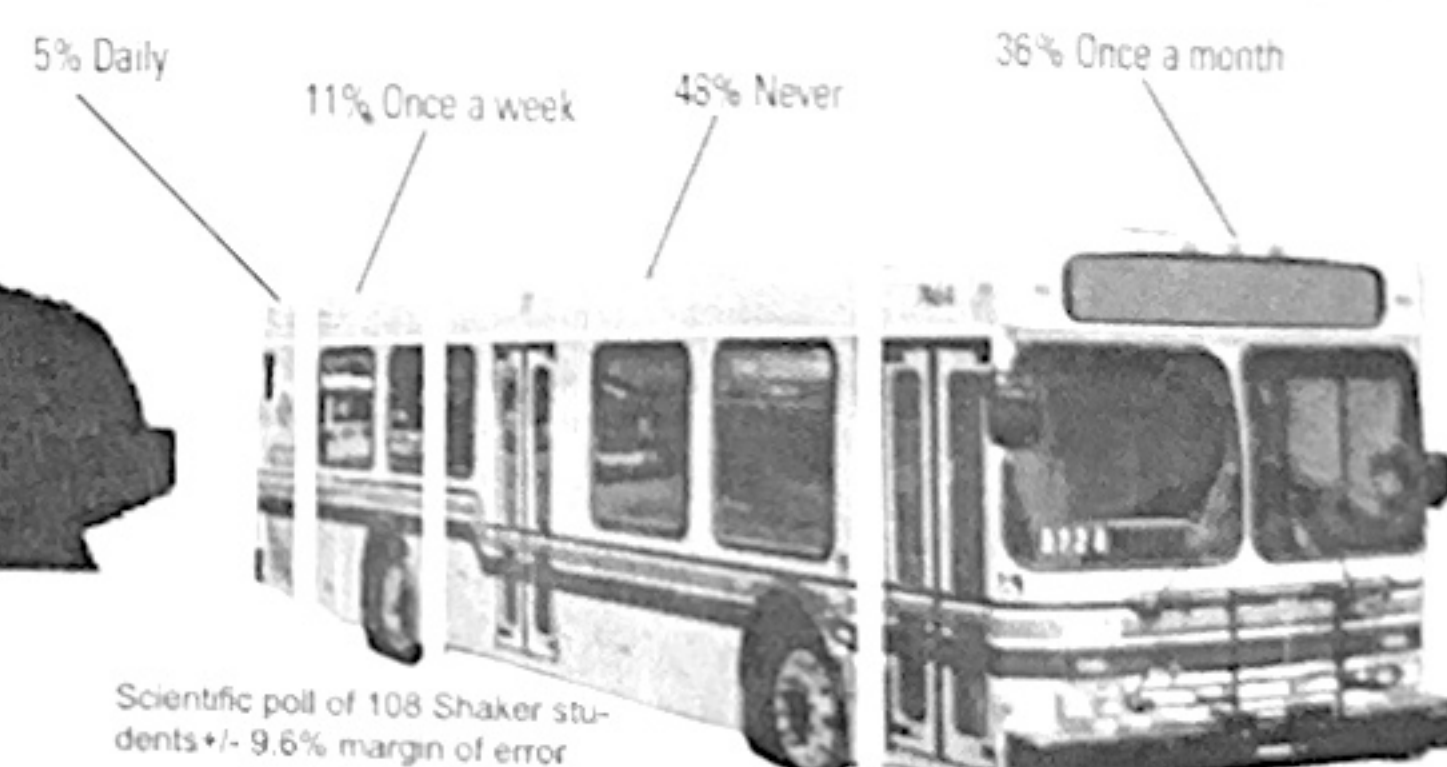
To this day I still take public transportation regularly to get around the city. My girlfriend lives in Lyndhurst. I work with people who live in Little Italy and I regularly go to the West Side. I can go to all these places on the bus, rapid or combination of the two.

In addition to the independence I have achieved through the use of public transit, it is a healthier choice for the planet and my body.

By leaving the car in the garage, I am forced to at least do some walking. This automatically brings exercise into my daily life. For the health of the environment, it is a sound choice to take the bus or train. Rationally speaking, the fuel emissions per person in a car versus the huge amount of people on the bus or rapid make it much better for the environment.

Though my use of public transit started because of my need to get around, it has grown into a choice I continue to make to avoid the detrimental results for body and earth that driving a car entails.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?



Infographic by Allison Scharfstein

Nico Boyd • The Shakerite

HOT CONCERTS FOR THE SUMMER

Fountains of Wayne 6-9-07 House of Blues

Nelly Furtado 6-9-07 Time Warner Amphitheater at Tower city

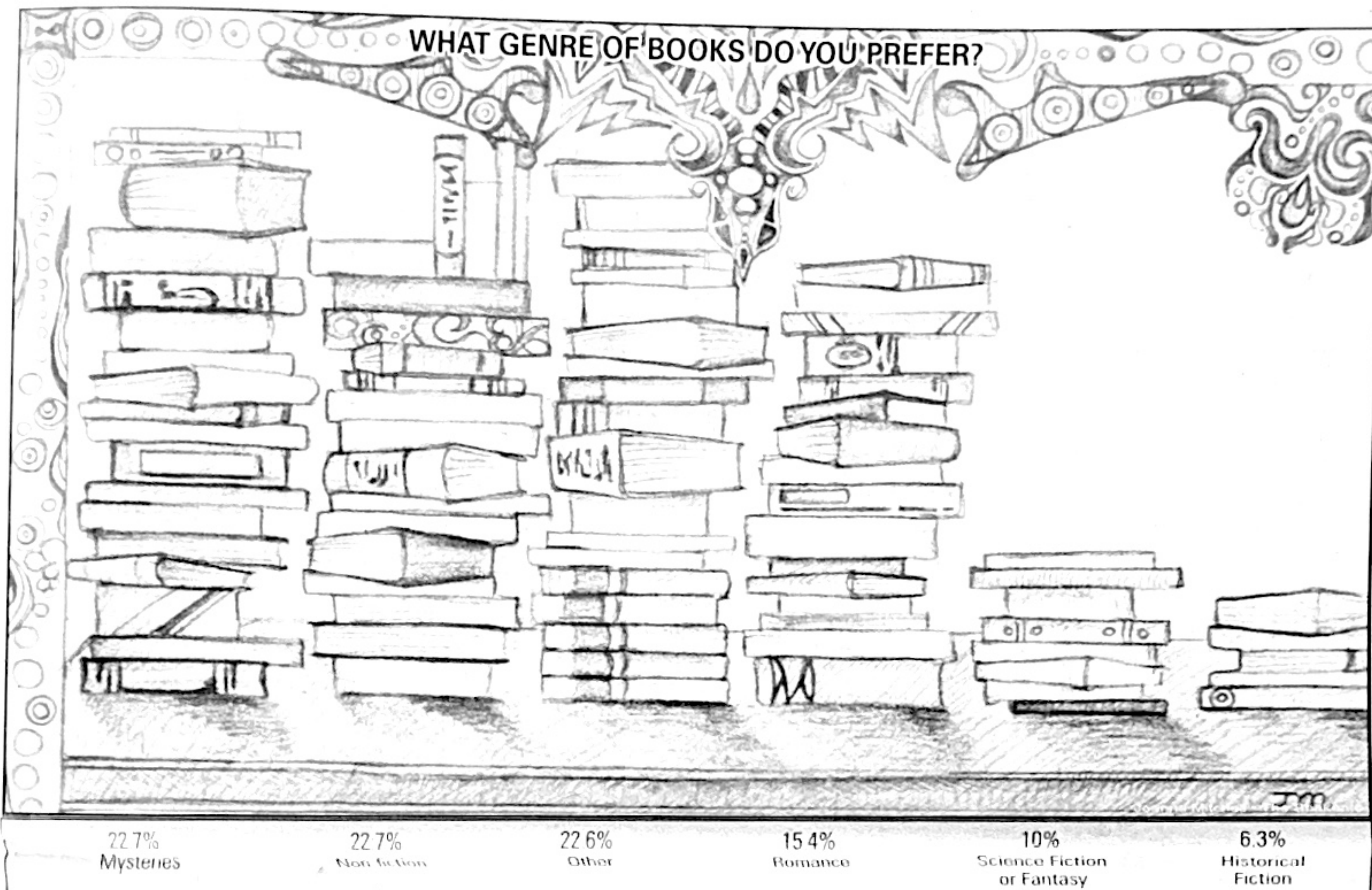
Ted Nugent 6-13-07 House of Blues

The Fray 6-18-07 Time Warner Cable Amphitheater at Tower City

Beyonce 8-19-07 Quicken Loans Arenass



WHAT GENRE OF BOOKS DO YOU PREFER?



Lack of individual reading leads to increase in outreach programs

BY ADRIA KINNEY
THE BEAT EDITOR

When struggling with tons of homework, studying for finals and enjoying the beautiful weather, recreational reading often gets cut from the schedule, and that isn't just a problem this time of year.

To battle this issue, literary programs are popping up around Shaker to connect with teens and increase reading rates. The high school itself has two book clubs and the city's libraries offer an increasing amount of student resources. Unfortunately students remain unaware or indifferent to these programs, as time constraints and personal preferences lead them to shy away from extracurricular reading.

Many students either feel that they don't have time to read or that reading is uninteresting. "I could read, but I just don't," freshman Lauren Poll said. "If someone tells me a book is really good or recommends it to me then I'll read it. Otherwise, I never read outside of school."

Book Talk Book Club is one of the book clubs at the high school attempting to remedy the absence of teen readers. Consisting of about 20 members, it is the main book club at the high school and has a teen-oriented focus. Students democratically vote on books that they want to read and meet every three weeks on Wednesdays after school to discuss what they have read.

"Lately, we have read a lot of books about teenagers in trouble," said freshman member Hanna Wrenn. "I think it's because we're teenagers and may have similar problems."

Dawn Sullivan, adviser to the club, said that while the main focus of the club is to encourage students to read more, she feels that relating to teens is a crucial first step.

"I wanted . . . the club . . . to discuss difficult issues, such as rape, dating violence, teen pregnancy, promiscuity, drug and alcohol abuse and other destructive behaviors," Sullivan said. "Some kids say that reading is boring or they just can't get into the book. I say that there are too many books to have this type of attitude. I beg kids to pick up a book, a magazine or the newspaper everyday. Reading is crucial!"

Junior member Merriam Kerr says that, although she doesn't always enjoy reading, the Book Talk Book Club has helped her to develop a newfound appreciation for literature. "I don't like to read at all, but these books that we read, I can relate to. They are relevant to teenage life . . . it's pretty fun."

Some kids say that reading is boring or they just can't get into the book. I say that there are too many books to have this type of attitude. I beg kids to pick up a book, a magazine or the newspaper everyday. Reading is crucial!

Dawn Sullivan • Adviser to Book Club

there's so much technology to distract them during their free time." Bertram Woods' children librarian Margaret Chatfield agreed that reading often takes a backseat in most teenagers' lives. She stressed that making connections with teenagers is the key to increasing teen readership.

"It's so important to make the library a place a teenager wants to be, because they have so many other places to go," she said. "Personally, I really wish that [teens] would read more, but we do what we can to make them feel welcome in the library, and try to give them their own space."

Summer flicks lack originality

Everyone loves a movie full of excitement, surprise and eventually a safe conclusion in which everything comes full circle. Sometimes it feels like the same circle that we have been around a thousand times before. We don't want to leave theaters feeling like NASCAR drivers after the big race. The same old characters facing the same conflicts leave everyone with a sense of déjà vu.

When you take a look at this summer's lineup, it seems jam-packed full of sequels, series and remakes. This trend seems to be driving the film industry these days.

Is Hollywood really out of new material? Has tinsel town run out of twinkle? If it has, maybe it is time to look to new media for ideas.

The industry has the cookie cutter character played by the same actor in the same clichéd storyline over and over again. The sad part about this is that nobody cares.

When there are new ideas in films, the industry tries to capitalize on their success and shoves any ounce of originality into a sequel somewhere. Most of the time the sequel fails to live up to the triumph of its precursor. The film industry should have enough confidence to create a new film with new characters and depart from what has already been done to death.

If new material is really needed for this generation, then the industry needs to look beyond the thousand comic book heroes, prior hits and classic blond damsels in distress.

What about a powerful, successful businesswoman, the role model of the modern girls? Find real heroes for our youth to look up to. If you need fantasy figures, pick up a comic book.

These days, what we really want is some originality. The big greats such as Casablanca and Pulp Fiction were filled with novel ideas and that is why they have kept their place in motion picture history.

The biggest shame of it all is that the movies of our generation will pass from our minds as quickly as Furbys did when we were younger. Nothing about our generation will become cult classics like The Breakfast Club or Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

When you describe a film to a friend, you shouldn't be able to say that it is kind of like Spiderman 2 with a hint of X-Men and that bit in the Incredible Hulk when he beat that guy up. The film industry needs to break away. If they like superheroes so much, they should come up with their own for once.

The cinema is now becoming a place to catch up memories of years past, not to drink in innovation.

Going to movies is supposed to be a experience of eating overly salted popcorn, yelling at the guy in front of you for his large head and being enthralled with the story that carries you on an emotional ride all in 90 minutes. You paid for a ticket; don't you deserve the adventure you expected?



KELSEY DEFOREST



COLIN JACKSON

Summer buys for a fun time



• Indulge yourself this summer with these must reads, fun downloads, new films and entertainment technology.

COMING SOON TO A THEATER NEAR YOU

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

July 13, 2007

Whether you have frenetically re-read all the books or just seen one film a few years back, this installment in the Harry Potter film series is the closest to a true high school experience. Bursting with delightful teen angst, Harry rebels against authority, has his first kiss and loses a loved one all in the slightly more than two-hour movie. It is a great film to see with your family or to see at midnight with your other friends who are "closet fans."

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End

May 25, 2007

Although you probably don't need another reason to see this movie other than the eye-candy of Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley, the third *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie is sure to be an action-packed, nail-biting thriller. It will be full of twists and turns, making the film a must-see for the ending alone. This promises to be great film to go see with your buddies.

The Simpsons Movie

July 27, 2007

This crazy comedy ensures that you will leave feeling better about your own family, making it a great film to see over the summer if your family is driving you crazy. The plot details have not been released, but the basic premise of the movie sends Homer out to save the world. What could be better than that?

Compiled by Kelsey DeForest
Compiled from IMDb.com

SUMMER READING THAT'S ACTUALLY FUN

"Adverbs" by Daniel Handler

Written by the acclaimed author of "The Series of Unfortunate Events," this book is far from the realm of children's literature. "Adverbs" is a snarky series of personal stories told in the voices of very different characters. The interactions between characters require the reader to re-analyze his or her own definition of love. The individual stories make the book great for summer, allowing the reader to read when the mood hits without trapping the reader into a convoluted conflict-driven plot.

"Bad Luck and Trouble" by Lee Child

This action-packed story tells of a retired team of army special investigators who are forced to investigate the murders of their former comrades. The protagonist, Jack Reacher, is the typical loner who is in a constant struggle against society but is drawn into humanity again when a former member contacts him through a coded SOS. The book presents a unique action story that is a mix between a class reunion and "24."

"Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil" by Deborah Rodriguez

This book tells the true story of a woman who travels to Afghanistan in 2002 to work as a nurse's aide. She soon finds that her talents as a beautician are more valuable and opens a training school, convincing American companies to donate 10,000 boxes of products. Written in the gossipy style of a hairdresser, Rodriguez describes her struggle to keep her school open against the attempts of the government to shut it down. Her's is an inspiring story of defiance and empowerment.

Compiled by Kelsey DeForest
Compiled from Amazon.com

TECH BUYS TO ELECTRIFY LIFE

iPhone

The newest addition to iLife, this gadget is much more than just a phone. A truly innovative device, iPhone will be completely controlled by a touch screen keypad. Additionally a 2 mega-pixel camera is perfect for the photographer on the go. Like its laptop brethren, the iPhone will run on OS X Mac operating system, making it easy to use and a good toy for any techie. Although the release date is unknown, rumors point toward early to mid-June.

Blu-Ray Discs

Just as DVDs replaced videocassettes, Blu-Ray discs offer a smaller, scratch-resistant alternative to DVDs. With their higher storage capacities, Blu-Ray discs will offer a whole new range of special features and extended content. What began as an obscure alternative to the DVD player, the Blu-Ray disc player is on the rise; it would probably behoove the movie buff to make the switch before it's too late.

Jabra BT620s Bluetooth Stereo Headphones

With numerous gadgets becoming vital to modern life, the number of wires can sometimes become overwhelming. The solution has arrived. Wireless headphones allow you all the freedom of portable speakers and the ability to enjoy your music with out disturbing the people around you. New waves of wireless devices are on the move as a perfect blend of self-indulgence while and respect for the space of others.

Compiled by Colin Jackson
Compiled from Amazon.com

MUST DOWNLOADS FOR SUMMER JAMS

"This is Why I Rock" by Mims Ft. Purple Popcorn

"Party Like a Rockstar" by Shop Boyz

These songs are perfect for this summer. "This is Why I Rock" and "Party Like a Rockstar" give a glimpse into the future of complete blending of music. It would have been inconceivable 20 years ago that the powerful drum machines of hip-hop could ever collaborate with the ear splitting guitar riffs of rock. Songs like this ensure that music genres are merely a myth and can be easily broken, giving birth to a new type of music. "Hip-rock"

"Hey There Delilah" by The Plain White T's

A true love ballad with lyrics designed to bring a tear to your eye. A very simple song with only an acoustic guitar to rely on for a melody, the song is quickly climbing the charts against the pop songs of today. The song is love letter to the singer's girlfriend who is off in college and is perfect for the high school student who is losing someone to the new world of college.

Compiled by Colin Jackson
Compiled from Apple.com

Senior project murals evolve throughout hallways



Josh Davidson • The Shakerite

SENIOR TYLER NAUGLE adds some color to his hallway mural, in front of Room 161, of one of his signature characters. Naugle was drawn to creating a mural because he wanted to create something lasting for the school. "I just thought I'd want to leave my mark on the wall of the school," said Naugle with a grin. "I want it to be something that when people walk by, it will make them laugh or smile."



Josh Davidson • The Shakerite

SENIOR CHUCK PAPPAS works on his senior project, a mural of singer Johnny Cash. Pappas was inspired to create the mural by the lack of country music artists represented in the hallways. "He has always been a really humble man," said Pappas. His message was really "do what you want to do and have fun," explained Pappas. Junior Natalie Schelling said, "I love Johnny Cash." She is happy to see another musician joining the halls. "A lot of our school is arts oriented. Musicians are really inspiring," said Schelling. "Musicians are artists... athletes are just pop icons."



Mike Young • The Shakerite

SOPHOMORE PITCHER KATHY Peter releases a pitch during her perfect game May 8.

Peter's pitcher perfect season

BY JOSH CURRY
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

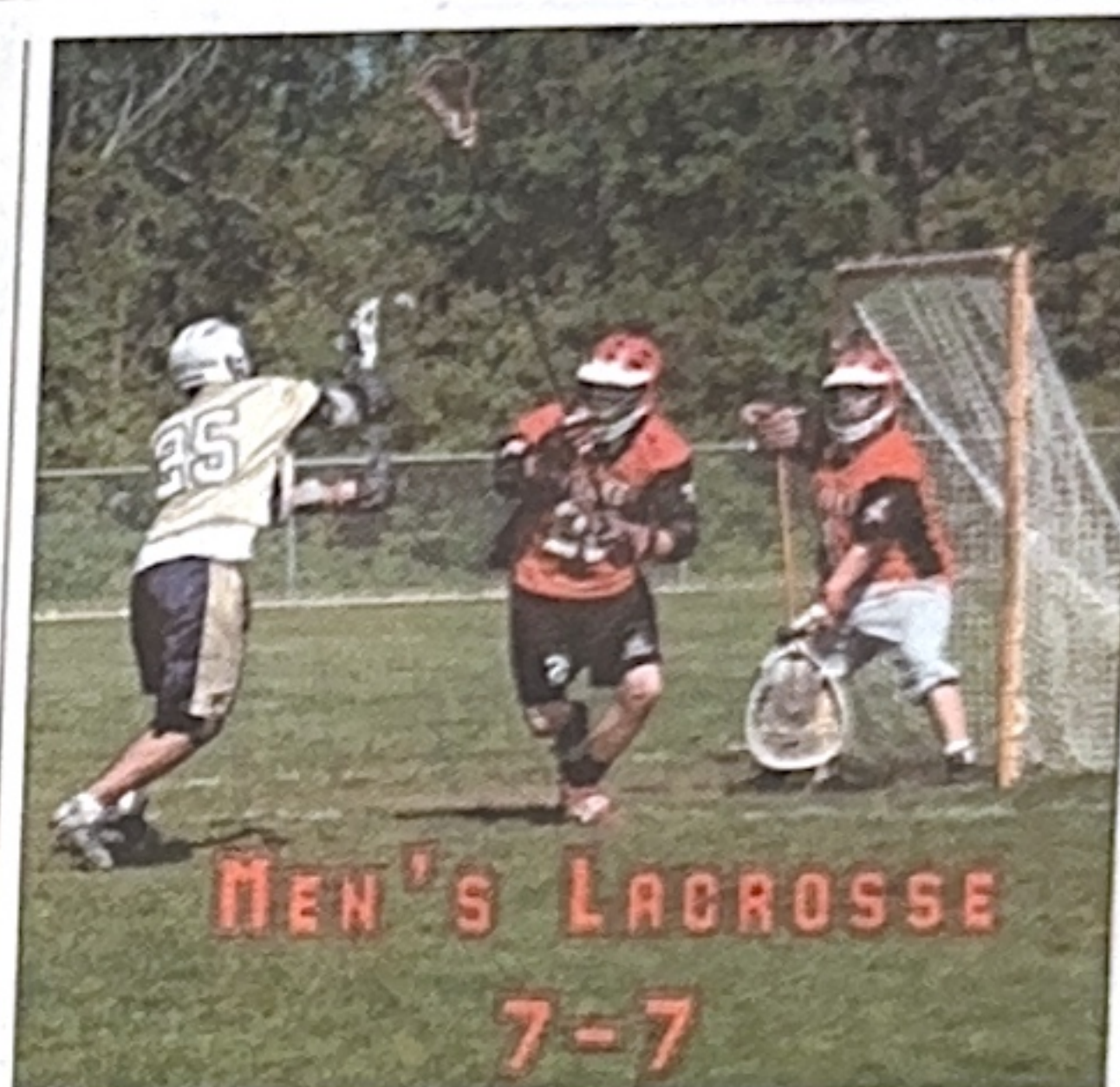
For the first time in coach James Schmidt's three years, the Shaker Heights softball team beat Lakewood May 16. This 5-0 victory was aided by the consistent pitching of sophomore Kathy Peter.

The softball team, with a record of 8-10, had its ups and downs this season. Though the Lakewood game was a high point in the season, Peter has stepped up in other key games, too. Only an underclassman, she has become the go-to girl when the team needs a win. "She is a determined person," sophomore Erin Rucker said. "Whenever we are down at all, she never wants to come off the field."

Peter's determination paid off when she threw a perfect game against Cleveland Heights May 8. She struck out 13 out of the 15 batters she faced.

"It was fun beat Heights because it was a lot of my old friends," Peter said. "I had never had a no-hitter before."

A team, however, cannot depend on a single player for a successful season. "When we were not in-sync we would play terribly," Rucker said. "But the team came together for big games and then we played really well."



Courtesy of Kevin McDonald

LACROSSE CAPTAIN KEVIN McDonald defends his goal in a game against St. John's last season.

Captain leads team through turbulence

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

After taking over the men's lacrosse team after the start of the season, head coach Ken Kurtz knew that he could count on captain Kevin McDonald to step into the leadership role.

"Kevin was a great captain," Kurtz said. "He was early for every game and practice and really encouraged all the younger players on the team."

Kurtz took over for Tom Fallon near the end of pre-season after Fallon had to resign due to other job commitments. Though Kurtz was previously the lacrosse coach for five years in the 1990s, the transition was still tough.

"We [the captains] tried to keep everyone together," McDonald said. "We just tried to keep everyone from getting too frustrated."

McDonald's defensive play was key in helping the team to a 7-7 record, which was surprising given the late coaching change.

"We won games we should have won, lost games we should have won and lost games we should have lost," McDonald said. "There weren't any real surprises."

Competition left in Shaker's dust

BY JOSH CURRY AND MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITORS

While the women's 4x400-meter dash track team has established themselves as a state power, the men's team is on the rise.

Three out of the last four years, the women's 4x400 team has won a state title. Brittany Mosley, a senior last year, was on all three of those teams while current runners, senior Kiara Fritz and junior Shaniqua McGinnis, were on the team the last two years.

"Everyone that's here has been on a state title team before," coach Henry Woodard said. "Patrice Page was on it in 2005 and Gabrielle Hughley was on it last year."

Although in the past the men's 4x400-meter dash team has not enjoyed such success as the women have, they displayed incredible po-

MEN'S TRACK
5TH IN LEL
WOMEN'S TRACK
2ND IN LEL

tential this season.

Composed of one senior, Terrence Hill, and three underclassmen, Perez Ashford, Keith Cleveland and Carmine Fortson, the team is young. This youth has not kept them from winning.

Teamwork and speed has aptly rewarded the men's 4x400-meter dash team. The team qualified for states, running a 3:20.14 at the Austintown-Fitch regional meet. "We have solid individuals in relays but, in terms of depth, we have a smaller team," he said.

The women's team, on the other hand, placed first at their regional meet and remains the favorite to win it all again.

"We've got the fastest time in the state," Woodard said. "The culture at Collinwood and Cleveland Heights always thinks that they can beat us... we're a target for everyone."

Slawson joins growing tide of coaching departures

LEGENDS EXIT SHAKER:

The past three years at Shaker have been marked by the departure of iconic head coaches such as football coach Dave Sedmak, baseball coach Buddy Longo and now, tennis coach Al Slawson.

Shaker athletics are slowly losing the legends that reinvigorated each program they inherited. Sedmak put Shaker football back on the map, going 99-40 in his 13 years as head coach, and Longo went 298-169 in his 20 years as baseball coach.

With the recent retirement of former men's and women's tennis coach Al Slawson, who has directed his team to 25 LEL titles and the 2000 state title in 27 years at the helm, we wonder just how long it will be before other iconic Shaker coaches, such as basketball coach Bob Wonson, who has coached the 12 winningest basketball teams in Shaker history and

hockey coach Mike Bartley, who has won three state titles, step down as well.

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER:

Since taking his first hand-off, former Shaker football star Greg Pruitt Jr. ('02) has been compared to his father, a five-time NFL Pro-Bowler. Now, Pruitt Jr. is attempting to make the NFL with the Baltimore Ravens. Greg Pruitt Sr. spent nine seasons with the Cleveland Browns and three with the Los Angeles Raiders. His son played at Shaker and then played in college at the University of Minnesota and North Carolina Central State University, where he set the school's career rushing record in three years. Any Cleveland sports fan can find the irony in the fact that the younger Pruitt is attempting to make the Ravens, who signed him as a free agent after the draft.



TEDDY CAHILL



MIKE YOUNG

TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM:

Senior first baseman Ryan Hines has experienced a lot of pain this season. After being hit by a pitch eight times this season, Hines moves into a tie for 23rd place in Ohio for number of times being hit by a pitch in a season. Michael Hay of Coldwater holds the record with 19 times in the 2002 season.

PREDICTIONS GONE WRONG:

We don't pretend to be experts on anything, and Shaker sports and our predictions this year reflect that. To start the year, both editors picked the Yankees to win the World Series. As it turned out, they only won one game the entire playoffs.

Continuing the trend of stupidity, both editors mistakenly predicted an Ohio State blow-out of the underdog Florida Gators in the BCS National Championship. In addition, neither anticipated Southern California to upset Michigan in the Rose Bowl, something that we should have seen coming since Michigan continually underachieves during the bowl season.

The top-heavy NBA wasn't too difficult to predict at the beginning of the season, even if Teddy predicted New Jersey to win the top seed in the East. Otherwise, there were a slew of reaches in the west and the east including Boston, Minnesota and Seattle.

However, when we turned to Shaker's teams, both editors performed much better. Mike correctly predicted the top three teams in the Red North, though his own opinion of Shaker exceeded their performance. Teddy likewise predicted the top two teams in Lake Erie League Lake Division men's basketball, with Shaker winning the LEL title. To end the year, both editors correctly predicted the Colts' Super Bowl victory over the Bears.

Looking forward, our current MLB picks seem to be holding up with Teddy's pick of current AL Central leader Detroit winning the World Series and Mike's selection of the wounded Yankees.



SHAKER NAMES NEW TENNIS COACH

Though 28-year veteran Al Slawson departs from men's tennis squad after this season, the tennis program will welcome a familiar face to replace him. Dave Paradzik, an assistant coach during the team's 2000 state title year as well as 1999 and 2001, will take over the team next season. The University School graduate coached tennis phenom and Shaker native Nicole Gibbs, who will move to California and attempt to make the professional ranks. "I just want to continue what 'Slaw' is doing here," said Paradzik, a 10-year tennis pro.

Raider Zone

06.04.07

COACH CALLS IT A CAREER

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

The quote on the back of the Shaker men's tennis shirts says "play to play great." Ever since Al Slawson's arrival in 1980, the Shaker men's tennis squad has lived up to that quote.

Slawson arrived at Shaker as men's tennis coach after coaching at Valley Forge and announced his retirement as coach in early May of this year.



Slawson

Slawson's players compliment him on his ability to keep them focused.

"He knows how to give good mental advice and always knows how to get you back in the match," said junior Greg Woyczynski, a state doubles finalist this year.

Over the last 27 years, Shaker has won 25 LEL titles, four district doubles titles, three district singles titles and a state title in 2000. In many ways, Shaker's success has been predicated on the success of their doubles teams.

Seemingly, every year, Shaker has a doubles team in the state tournament. This season Woyczynski and senior Robert Williams qualified for the state tournament. "In many ways playing doubles makes you a better singles player," Slawson said. "We do a lot of doubles in practice."

Dave Paradzik, an assistant coach at Shaker from 1999-2001, was named as Slawson's replacement in early May. Whether or not the team can continue its success with Paradzik is a question facing them for next year, but Slawson said he believes Shaker's tradition of tennis excellence will hold despite his absence.

"We have an established tradition of doing well and of people who want to be a part of the program," he said. "It could be a socio-economic thing, too, because [other cities in the area] just don't have the resources."



Mike Young • The Shakerite

FIRST SINGLES PLAYER Jeremy Polster prepares to return a volley during the Lake Erie League Tennis Tournament. Polster won the tournament and returned to the state tournament after finishing second in the Oberlin District. Polster will play tennis for Kenyon College next year.

Tennis ace still turning heads

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

When Jeremy Polster arrived at Shaker, few realized that he had the potential to become "one of the best men's singles players ever." Four years later, that's exactly what he's become, according to his coach, Al Slawson.

"I started coaching in 1980 and there's only one other who's had as good a record as Jeremy," Slawson said.

Polster split time between JV and varsity his freshman year before elevating himself to the first singles player as a sophomore. Last year, Polster made it to the state tournament, losing in the second round.

"It's hard to get to states so you have to be happy with wherever you finish there," Polster said.

Yet Polster did it again, officially clinching his spot May 19 at the Oberlin Districts. Polster advanced to the district final to meet Westlake's Brad Noel, who is "considered the best in the area," according to Polster. Noel beat Polster 7-6 (7-2), 6-1, yet Polster still advances to the state tournament by virtue of finishing in the top six singles players.

That was only Polster's second loss of the year, even though he was injured during the middle part of the year. "I pulled a muscle and had to serve underhand," Polster said. Though he said, "it was no big deal," Polster still had to play through a couple of tough matches with the injury. The two-time state finalist will head to Kenyon College, a Division III school in Gambier, Ohio, to play tennis.

"They've got two great coaches who are really good motivators," Polster said.

MEN'S TENNIS 18-5
LEL CHAMPIONS

Testen steps up in senior season

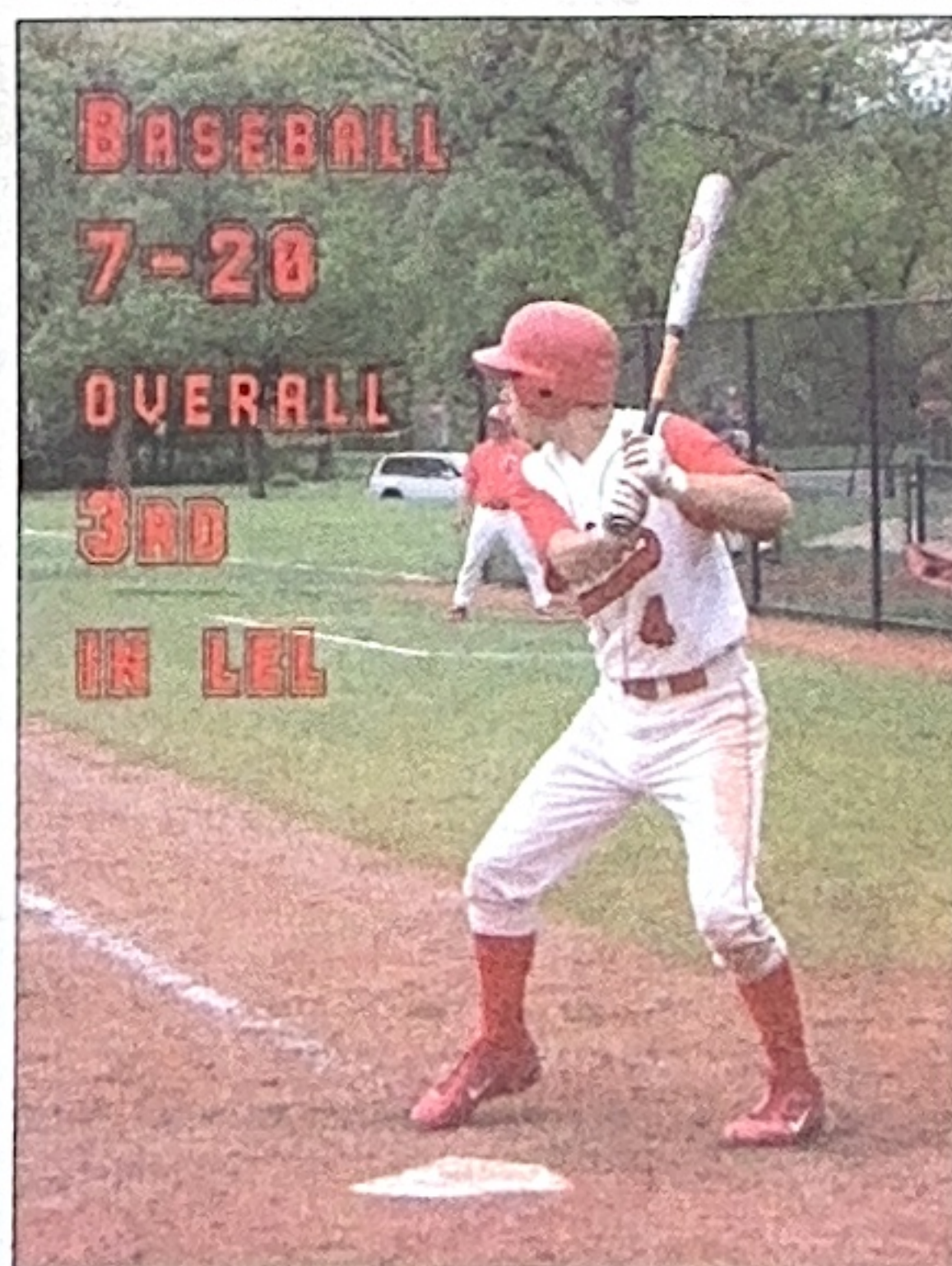
BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

When a star player goes down due to injury, the team looks for someone to take on his or her role. After junior baseball captain River McWilliams was injured and unable to start the season, senior Glenn Testen became the man to step into his role.

"I feel that I've stepped into that number one pitcher's role and played short pretty well," Testen said. He isn't lying, according to the numbers; Testen has recorded a 3.38 ERA and 50 strikeouts through 49 2/3 innings pitched. "I knew it was my last chance so I had to make the most of my senior year," he said.

However, the defense behind Testen hasn't exactly helped him out, as he has 33 unearned runs to his credit. "If the defense makes errors, then, so what?" Testen said. "Coach [Michael Babinec] has said 'you can control only what you can control.'"

As for the season overall, it didn't go well for the baseball team. They finished the season 7-20 overall and 5-5 in the Lake Erie League, but Testen believes that the record is a bit deceiving. "We fought hard against St. Ignatius, St. Edward, Mentor and beat Garfield Heights twice."



Teddy Cahill • The Shakerite

SENIOR GLENN TESTEN digs into the box awaiting the pitch during the Senior Day game against Solon May 19. Testen was among the area's leaders in strikeouts with 50 this season and was named all-LEL.

Lacrosse team bonds despite tough season

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Despite a disappointing record for the women's lacrosse team this season, senior captain Laura Stern still said the team was able to have fun playing together.

"As a unit everyone really worked hard together," Stern said. "Everyone really had fun this season."

The team finished 5-8-2 this season under the captaincy of Stern, who played midfield. Highlighting this season were two decisive victories over Hathaway Brown and Laurel including an upset of Laurel in the state tournament.

This was the second year in a row that Shaker beat their cross-town rival Hathaway Brown.

"It's very rewarding beating the private school girls," Stern said. "They're usually close games which just makes them more exciting."

GIRLS' LACROSSE
5-9-1
OVERALL

The team started the season strong going 2-0-1 in its first three games including wins over Jackson and Wooster and a tie to Magnificat. The team was unable to continue its momentum later in the season against strong competition including Chagrin Falls and Ursuline Academy.

Shaker was also led by junior Maggie O'Connor who had the highest number of goals and total points, finishing with 39 goals and 16 assists.